



PAINT THE FAIR: PLEIN AIR PAINTING ON the SPOT COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office
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ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1, 2026

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 13, 2026

COMPETITION DATE THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026 11AM-5PM

CHECK IN at the CREATIVE ARTS BUILDING, FINE ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY AREA 10:45AM

Entry Fee: \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Ages: 18 & Up

Prize Checks: Available Tuesday, August 18, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.

***Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

Plein Air Painting Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 13, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Anyone 18 years old and older is eligible to enter this competition.
4. A Plein Air Contestant is limited to a total of one (1) entry in the Plein Air Contest.
5. **If you have won a Blue Ribbon in the previous year, you must wait one (1) year to compete again.**
6. The artist's canvas, paper, board, etc. must be stamped by the Fine Arts Staff prior to beginning work. Only two (2) surfaces may be stamped at check-in. At the time of check-in please let the staff know where on the Fairgrounds you will be painting. Only one (1) submission will be accepted and judged.
7. **Supplies:** Bring your own art supplies; be ready to paint on location, within the Fairgrounds. Size restrictions for adults are no larger than 36" x 36" and no smaller than 11" x 14". Matting or framing of acrylic is optional. Matting is suggested for all other mediums. **NO OIL PAINTS ALLOWED.**
8. You are encouraged to visit the Fair before contest day to scout out your subject. However, no photos or sketches of your subject will be allowed on contest day. Frames & Canvases need D-Ring/Screw Eyes and flexible picture wire to hang.
9. NOTE: The artist must ask building superintendents/concessionaries where to set up to avoid blocking aisles/lines.

Judging Criteria

Artwork must be completed and returned to the Creative Arts building by 5:00 PM for judging. You will not be allowed to touch your painting after 5:00 PM. Awards will be announced at 5:30 PM and your painting will remain on display for the remainder of the Fair.

PAINT THE FAIR: PLEIN AIR PAINTING ON the SPOT COMPETITION CLASSES

Premiums Offered: Amateur: 1st Place Blue \$100, 2nd Place Red \$75,
3rd Place Yellow \$50

Professional: 1st Place Blue \$200, 2nd Place Red \$150,
3rd Place Yellow \$75

*Amateur is an artist with very little training in art; professional is an artist who teaches or sells their work.

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1. Amateur
2. Professional